

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00
IO-13 AGRE-00 PC-01 OES-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /098 W
-----172204Z 091391 /46

R 170333Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2874

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 WELLINGTON 0970

MANILA FOR USADB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID049, BRIO, EFIS, EAIR

SUBJECT: GERMAN AID TEAM VISIT TO SOUTH PACIFIC

REF: STATE 40214

1. ON MARCH 15 MINISTERIAL COUNSELLOR HANSEN OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION (GTZ) UNDER THE FGR MINISTRY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION ATTENDED A MEETING CALLED BY THE GNZ MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE FGR TEAM VISIT TO TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA. DR LUNAU AN EXPERT LOCATED IN FRANKFURT IN RURAL LENDING, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, AND "LAND TECHNIQUES" ACCOMPANIED MR HANSEN. TWO OTHER GERMAN EXPERTS FROM MANILA ALSO JOINED THEM DURING THEIR VISIT TO THE ISLANDS.

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2. IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL MFA OFFICERS, THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR AND DCM, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UK, AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONS IN NZ AS WELL AS THE US EMBASSY ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ATTENDED THE MEETING.

3. MR HANSEN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATION AND

CONSULTATION AMONG DONOR COUNTRIES. HE SAID BOTH TONGA (T) AND WESTERN SAMOA (WS) SUBMITTED "UNREALISTIC LISTS" OF PROPOSALS FOR AID. AS A RESULT MOST OF THE REQUESTS MADE WERE DROPPED. THESE INCLUDED COMMERCIAL FISHERIES AND PRAWN DEVELOPMENT, MARINE TRAINING, A FOOD PROCESSING COMPLEX, A SUGAR MILL, A GRAIN MILL, A VILLAGE PLANTATION SCHEME, PORK FEASIBILITY STUDY, CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, DOCK FACILITIES AND EXTENSION OF THE AIRPORT (NO DETAILS ON THIS PROJECT ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE UNTIL THE END OF 1977). HANSEN MENTIONED BRIEFLY THE SKIPJACK TUNA SURVEY WITH NO INDICATION OF ANY PLAN TO ASSIST. HE COMMENTED ON THE "GENERAL INCOMPETENCE, LACK OF RELIABLE AND OFTEN CONTRADICTORY INFORMATION" FROM INTERESTED MINISTRIES, THOUGH WS WAS BETTER THAN T. IN THIS REGARD. HE NOTED THAT WS HAD A "BUDGET SURPLUS" FOR DEVELOPMENT. MR HANSEN WAS CONCERNED HOW WELL THESE ISLANDS COULD HANDLE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES FROM INCREASED AID. AMONG OTHER "NEW IDEAS" DISCUSSED, BUT WHICH WERE DROPPED, EITHER FOR LACK OF MONEY OR BECAUSE OTHER DONORS WERE CONSIDERING AID WERE A SHIPPING LINE, A SLAUGHTER HOUSE, AND A GOVERNMENT PRINTING SHOP.

4. TWO TECHNICAL AID PROJECTS FOR WS ON WHICH THERE WAS AGREEMENT WERE:

(A) A MULTI-FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATED COMPLEX TO ORGANIZE BUYING, STORING AND MARKETING FARM PRODUCTS SUCH AS COPRA, ETC. ONE GERMAN TECHNICIAN WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THIS. THERE WOULD BE CLOSE COOPERATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH OTHER DONORS OR AGENCIES SUCH AS ADB, DEVELOPMENT BANK OF WS, EXISTING AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES ETC.

(B) INTEGRATED PLAN FOR CROP PROTECTION. FIVE GERMAN TECHNICIANS WOULD BE ASSIGNED INITIALLY TO THE PROJECT WITH POSSIBLY MORE LATER.

5. HE WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY MAJOR PROJECTS YET READY FOR PROVISION OF CAPITAL ASSISTANCE. HANSEN SAID WS INDICATED THEY MIGHT WITHDRAW THEIR REQUEST TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR CERTAIN AID AND ASK GERMAN HELP, BUT HE SAID NO. AMONTH CAPITAL EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE DISCUSSED, HE MENTIONED POWER GENERATORS, X-RAY EQUIPMENT (GERMANY WILL PROVIDE \$250,000 OF WHICH \$100,00 WOULD BE TO LOW INTEREST LOAN AND THE REST A GRANT), EQUIPPING A GOVERNMENT PRINTING SHOP AND TRAILERS FOR USE ON THE WHARFS.

6. HE SAID THERE WAS SOME CHANCE OF SOME LOW INTEREST LOANS BEING RANTED. IT WAS CALCULATED THAT 2.5 MILLION

MARKS WERE NEEDED.

7. MR HANSEN SAID HE WAS NOT CLEAR WHAT WS PLANS OR WISHES WERE REGARDING SHIPPING NEEDS. (COMMENT: IT APPEARS THIS WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN DETAIL WITH THE WESTERN SAMOANS)

8. HANSEN SAID HE WAS TOLD BY WS THERE WERE NO FACILITIES FOR ACCOMMODATING MORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. HOWEVER, HE SAW A NEED FOR MORE TRAINING IN SUCH FIELDS AS ENTOMOLOGY, BIOLOGY, ETC. HE THOUGH IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO TRAIN THEM IN THE AREA. HE MENTIONED FUNDING AS MANY AS ELEVEN TRAINEES.

9. REGARDING TONGA, HANSEN FAVORED AN INTEGRATED PLANT AND CROP PROTECTION PROJECT. FIRST THERE WAS A NEED TO ASSESS WHAT HAD BEEN AND WAS NOW BEING DONE. THIS COULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A FOLLOW-UP ON THE UNDP/FAO SURVEY. THE PLAN WOULD BE AN INTEGRATED SERVICE INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL. MORE TIME WOULD BE NEEDED TO DEVELOP THIS PROJECT.

10. HANSEN SAID THE US PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR IN TONGA OFFERED VOLUNTEERS. THERE WAS ALSO A SUGGESTION THAT US PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT HELP.

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MANILA FOR USADB

11. IN RESPONSE TO THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE'S INQUIRY ABOUT POSSIBLE GERMAN ASSISTANCE TO EXTEND THE NUKUALOFA AIRPORT, HANSEN SAID IT WAS ONLY TOUCHED ON BRIEFLY (AND NOT BY THE KING) AND THE GERMANS HAD NO PRESENT PLAN TO ASSIST. (COMMENT: GERMAN DCM LATER TOLD THE REPORTING OFFICER THIS WAS NOT MEANT TO FORECLOSE DEFINITELY POSSIBLE LATER CONSIDERATION OF HELP.) THE AUSTRALIAN AND AUSTRALIA HAD AGREED TO UP-GRADE THE AIRPORT IN PHASES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTIONS ABOUT HELP ON IMPROVING OTHER TONGAN AIRPORTS THE AUSTRALIAN SUGGESTED HANSEN RAISE THIS IN CANBERRA DURING HIS VISIT THERE. (COMMENT: THE GERMANS SHOWED SURPRISE THAT THE AUSTRALIANS HAD DECIDED TO HELP ON THE AIRPORT UP-GRADING.) THE AUSTRALIAN ALSO MENTIONED CONSIDERATION OF HELP ON A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR TONGA AND OF THE PROVISION OF TWO SHIPS AS PART OF A \$A10 MILLION NON-MILITARY DEFENSE AID FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SURVEILLANCE OF THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WHEN IT COMES INTO EXISTANCE - PROBABLY LATER THIS YEAR. (COMMENT: THE GERMAN DCM LATER TOLD THE REPORTING OFFICER THAT HE PROJECTED COOPERATION BY AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM FOR SURVEILLANCE OF THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONES OF THE ISLANDS WAS NEW TO THE GERMANS, THOUGH HE AGREED THAT THIS SEEMED A LOGICAL MOVE IN VIEW OF THE COMMON INTEREST OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THIS AREA IN JOINTLY PROTECTING AND DEVELOPING THEIR ECONOMIC INTERESTS.)

12. AFTER A REFERENCE BY THE GNZ REPRESENTATIVE TO INTEREST OF ALL COUNTRIES PRESENT AT THE MEETING, INCLUDING GERMANY WHICH HAD TIES WITH THE AREA DATING WAY BACK, IN HELPING ISLAND COUNTRIES, HANSEN WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT THE HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP OF GGERMANY TO THE AREA WAS NOT A MOTIVATING FACTOR IN THE PRESENT OFFER OF AID.

13. HANSEN WILL VISIT MANILA ENROUTE BACK TO BONN, PRESUMABLY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH ADB OFFICIALS. HANSEN SPOKE OF ADB'S GROWING CONCERN ABOUT WESTERN SAMOA'S GROWING LOAN INDEBTEDNESS.

14. IT WAS CLEAR THAT HANSEN'S PRIMARY AIM WAS TO IDENTIFY

PROJECTS OR AREAS WHERE ASSISTANCE WOULD BHAVE TRUE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUE TO THE ISLANDS. THE GERMANS ARE APPARENTLY NOT INTERESTED IN CONSIDERING PROJECTS WHICH THEY FEEL DO NOT CLEARLY MEET THIS CRITERION E.G. NUKUALOFA AIRPORT. (COMMENT: GERMAN DCM SAID TONGA HAD EVEN OFFERED GERMANS LANDING RIGHTS FOR LUFTHANSA IF GERMANS WOULD AGREE TO HELP EXTEND THE AIRPORT, BUT HANSEN HAD DOUBTS OF THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM THE EXTENSION. HE QUESTIONED THE TOURISM POTENTIAL OF TONGA.)

15. THE REPORTING OFFICER, WHEN ASKED ABOUT US PLANS FOR AID RECALLED THE RECENT VISIT TO T AND WS BY US STATE/AID TEAM BUT EXPLAINED THAT THE FINAL REPORT ON THEIR VISIT HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED SO HE WAS UNABLE TO GIVE ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION ON THE RESULTS. HE DID PROMISE TO SEND HIGHLIGHTS OF HANSEN'S REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT KEEP BONN INFORMED OF US PLANS ON AID. (COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR GERMANS ARE SINCERE IN THEIR DESIRE AND IN FACT ANXIOUS TO CONSULT WITH FELLOW AID DONORS. THOUGH THEY STRESSED THEIR RECOGNITION OF THE PRIMARY INTEREST OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA IN HELPING THEIR NEIGHBOR COUNTRIES, THE GERMANS' REACTION TO NEWS OF SOME PLANS MENTIONED IN MEETING BY OTHER REPRESENTATIVES INDICATES A POSSIBLE FEELING THAT OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE GROUP MAY NOT BE DISCUSSING THEIR PLANS AS FULLY WITH THE GERMANS AS THEY ARE WITH ONE ANOTHER. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO KEEP THIS IN MIND IN COORDINATING ITS AID PLANS WITH OTHER DONORS.

SELDEN

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